Highlights

- Cooperation between Constitutional Offices
- Better management of workforce
- Automation to reduce time-consuming tasks

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Return on Investment (ROI)

- Less time in the office = more time in the field doing appraisals
- Better managed field work reduces travel times and fuel consumption

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Contact Us

For more information, contact:
Larry Duke
Land Records Manager
(lduke@lakecountyfl.gov)
Lake County Office of Information Technology/GIS Division

Pete Peebles, CFE
Senior Supervisor, Real Estate/AG
ppeebles@lcpafl.org
Lake County Property Appraiser's Office

Collaboration between the Lake County Property Appraiser and the GIS Division of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners is aiding in more efficient, timely property inspections that result in a fair and equitable distribution of tax liability for the citizenry, and labor and cost savings to the Property Appraiser.

Background:
Lake County's Property Appraiser, under the auspices of Ed Havill, is responsible for seeing that Lake County's residents and businesses are taxed equitably through his function of setting a reasonable value on property for taxation purposes. In order to do this, he is tasked with making a certain number of site visits each year as part of determining property values for the upcoming tax year.

The Issue:
The Appraiser prides himself in being frugal and doing more with less, but the current budgetary climate has put yet more pressure on his staff to perform efficiently. The Senior Supervisor in charge of field appraisals has had to perform an increasing number of field appraisals with the same number of staff.

Previously, in planning for their field visits, each field appraiser will print out all of the open permits in the area he plans to visit each week then he photocopies the appropriate appraiser maps. After sorting the permit information by area, he marks on the map each parcel with an open permit. After that , he plans his route and make his visits. This is a manual and labor intensive process that takes a lot of time each morning.

The Solution:
Through a cooperative effort between the Property Appraiser's Office and the County's GIS Division, it was decided to automate much of this process by introducing the field appraisers to GIS. Rather than each appraiser printing out his own building permits, all open permits are now periodically exported to a table that is automatically added to the GIS Enterprise Database and geocoded to locate the associated property. An ArcGIS Map Document was then created to display the base cadastre layers and, using the geocoded Building Permit layer, indicate parcels with open building permits. These properties are color coded for Issued, Reviewed, and Completed. The map document was turned into a map book with individual pages for each 1/2 section (a format the inspectors are used to seeing and working with) al-

lowing the inspectors to quickly identify their inspection areas and plot the maps they need, eliminating the manual process of printing individual permit records, photocopying map pages, and drawing permits on the copies.
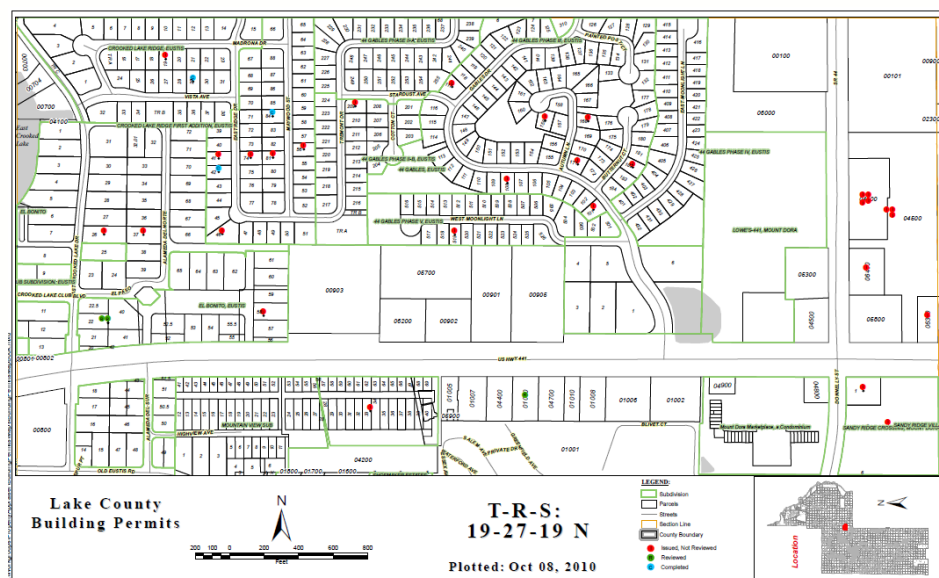
The Benefits:
With just a few clicks of the mouse, field inspectors now have the ability to quickly print the map pages they need with the permit information already identified on the properties. The daily manual chore has been reduced to a fraction of the time, so they are on their way in the field doing the real work of appraisal and increasing the number of visits per day.

Also, having all Building Permit records displayed visually allows the Senior Supervisor to monitor progress of inspections, focus attention on heavy areas, and coordinate manpower more efficiently.